

Affordable Housing Committee
May 9, 2005

Meeting called to order by Betty Rooney at 7:09 p.m.

Present were: Elizabeth Whaley, Betty Rooney, Bonnie Hundt, Sue Gregory, Gaye Parise, Antoinette Critelli, and Alison Hale.

Betty Rooney introduced Kevin O'Neill, the Executive Director of Housing Resources of Columbia County, Inc. He has been working with Millerton on their project to develop affordable housing, and has projects underway in Chatham and Copake. Kevin discussed the role of Housing Resources, and how the not-for-profit group functions and develops affordable housing. (See attached handout)

- Lack of affordable housing is barrier to new businesses coming in
- Housing Resources is the owner/manager of project
- They do a counseling and education program to teach about home ownership, from getting a mortgage to maintaining a home, usually takes about a year
- Housing Resources maintains roads, driveways, and the units therefore no additional cost to the community
- Use of panelized housing, better than modular, higher quality with a better design
- Units are built as a slab on grade with radiant heating
- Housing Resources does extensive background screening of applicants

Kevin believes a survey similar to the Northeast Housing Committee Survey done in 2002 would be beneficial in helping the community develop our needs. Mrs. Rooney asked Kevin how we would get started.

- Do a survey
- Work with Master Plan to find zones for affordable housing
- Find sites
- Begin preliminary designs, environmental and engineering studies
- Housing Resources, Inc is usually invited in by Committees

Kevin said the role of the non-profit is to do what the market won't do.

Everyone briefly discussed a copy of the survey and what questions should be asked, modifications, etc. Should work on at next meeting.

Bonnie will call Deborah DeLong (Executive Director, Dutchess County Workforce Housing Coalition) to see if she can come to next meeting.

The next meeting will be on May 23, 2005, at 7 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.